Anyone think our fish is trying to eat the soba?

Calling all Image Editors, FTH-Scans needs your help! Apply at our site!

Amazingly enough, Inamine keeps his balls this time.
However, he's got 99 problems, and bitches are several.
Fight on, Inamine, you'll win in the end(?)

こいもく

CIMOC

STORY OF CARTOONIST AND TRUE LOVE / PRESENTED BY ARTLIM MEDIA

登場人物

あらすじ

紹介されたアシスタント、迫水千佳とある意味衝撃的な出会いを果たし、暗澹別れしてしまった耕太。そんな二人のために日向がもう度話し合う場を設けてくれるまで。原稿を見せようと、耕太は千佳の持つ画力に驚かされる。千佳もまた、耕太の描く原作に興味を抱き、二人はコンビ結成へと至る。作業も順調に進み、息抜きに遊びに出かけた耕太はその帰り道、酔い潰れ、雨に打たれる十文字と遭遇し、家まで送り届けるのだが……。

ダイジェスト

耕太くんとっとと十文字編集長しまで!?

コンビ誕生!! でもやっぱり上から目線

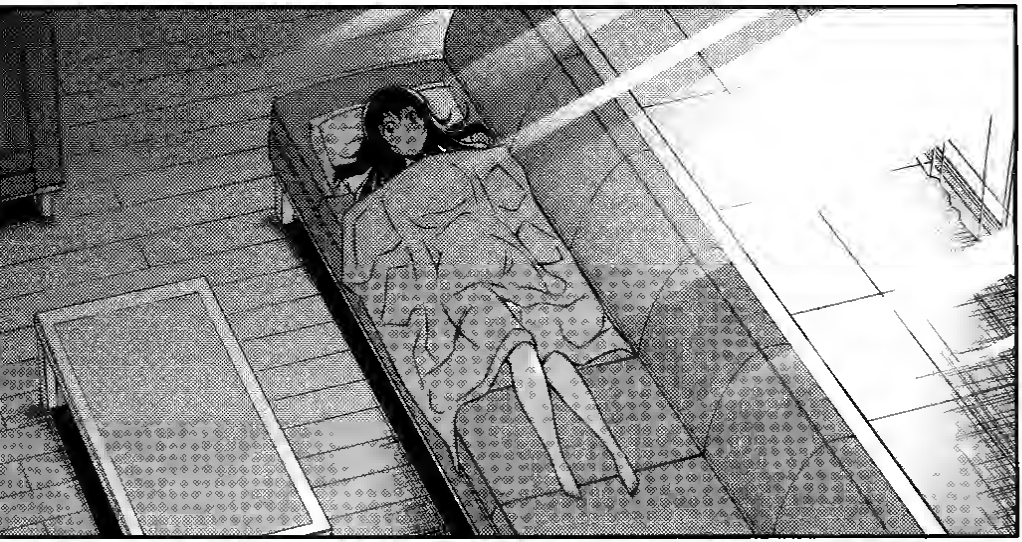
THEY'RE ALL LYING, AREN'T THEY?
WHO WOULD AGREE TO SUCH ABSURD CONDITIONS?
SENPAI!
雨の中響き渡るさやかの声――。
EVERYONE SAYS YOU'RE THE VERY MODEL OF AN EDITOR!
IT'S ALL JUST NONSENSE, ISN'T IT?
NO...
IF IT WAS FOR HIM...
AS IF YOU'D BLINDLY FOLLOW THE ORDERS OF AN AUTHOR!
YOU'D NEVER AGREE TO ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

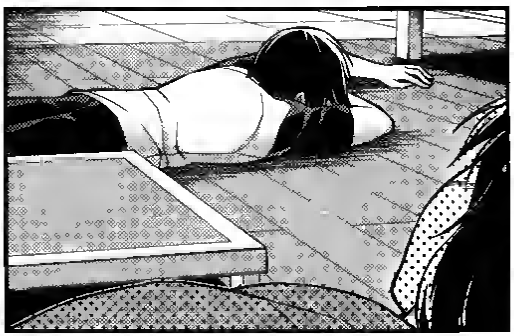
波瀾万丈!
濃厚な人間ドラマ絶賛展開中!!
I WOULD THROW MYSELF AWAY.
コミックス第2巻大好評発売中!!
こいもく
KOIMOKU
原作 林達永
作画 李海源
FOR OZMA...
NOW MATTER HOW FAR I FALL...
I WOULD GIVE HIM MY SUPPORT.
GET OUT HERE, OZMA!
ドン
ドン
ドン
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE TO SAWANOGUCHI-SAN?!
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!

GET OUT HERE!
HOW DARE YOU CALL YOURSELF AN AUTHOR! YOU'RE NOTHING!
I'LL DO IT.
I PROMISE YOU I'LL BECOME A FIRST-RATE AUTHOR...
JUUMONJI-SAN...

I'LL SELL A MILLION... NO, TEN MILLION COPIES...
AND I'LL SHOW THAT SAWANOGUCHI-SAN'S METHODS ARE NOT WRONG.
SO PLEASE HELP ME...
JUUMONJI -SAN...
LEND ME YOUR AID...

Let's do this...
Together.
THE TWO OF US...
WILL SUCCEED WITHOUT QUESTION.





What's this?
Why am I here?

ARE... ARE YOU...
Migh...
すぅっ
OH...
INAMINE ...
KOUTA-SAN?
バッ
ﾝ？...

WAAGH!
...!?
PLEASE!
COVER YOURSELF UP!
SO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RAIN...
I MADE IT BACK TO MY APARTMENT, EVEN THOUGH I WAS DRUNK.
カチャ
...
YAAAHH!

I DON'T THINK...
I'M IN THE KIND OF POSITION WHERE I COULD BE CALLED "SENSEI" YET.
AND I HAVE YOU TO THANK, INAMINE-SENSEI?
THANK YOU.
HUH?
I WAS SHOWING YOU A BAD SIDE OF MYSELF.
BUT YET YOU STILL BROUGHT ME BACK HOME.
OH, UM, I GUESS THAT'S TRUE, BUT, UH...

OH, NO, IT WAS NOTHING SPECIAL.
YOU WERE SOAKED AND YOU HAD A FEVER.
I COULDN'T VERY WELL TURN A BLIND EYE.

ドキッ
UM... ALSO... I THOUGHT YOU WOULD END UP WITH A COLD WITH THOSE CLOTHES ON. SO I THOUGHT I'D BETTER GIVE YOU A CHANGE...
ぐっ
だらっ
...!!
...?
THEN... IF I HAVE THIS CORRECT...
ぶっ
YOU DECIDED...
TO TAKE OFF MY CLOTHES?
W-WAIT!
I SWEAR I DIDN'T HAVE ANY ULTERIOR MOTIVES!
THOSE WERE THE CIRCUM-STANCES!
I MADE SURE TO COVER MY EYES! I PROMISE!

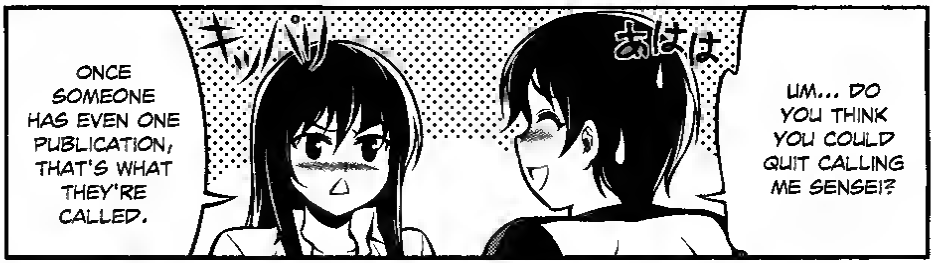
INAMINE-SENSEI.
I REALLY AM IN YOUR DEBT.

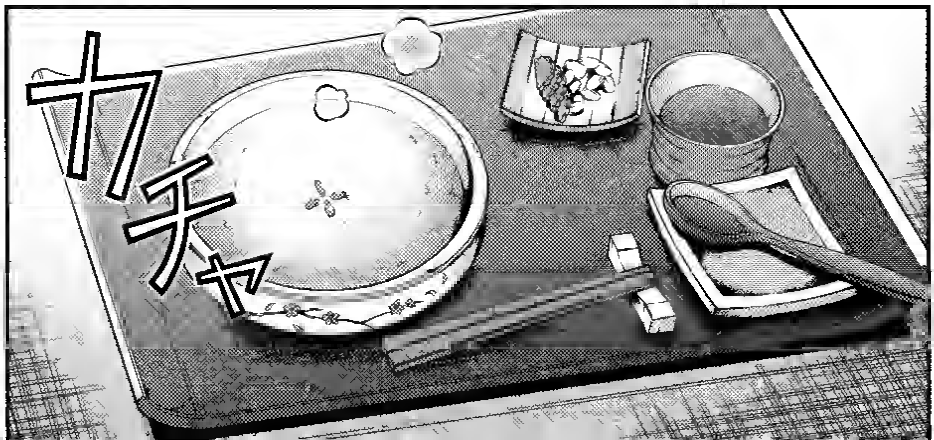
IT'S ALRIGHT. I UNDERSTAND.

SO THEN AFTER YOU BROUGHT ME HOME...
YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING OVER ME THIS WHOLE TIME?
YOU SEEMED LIKE YOU HAD A FEVER, SO I WAS WORRIED.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT!

THANK YOU.
...!?

ぼ～っ


UM... DO YOU THINK YOU COULD QUIT CALLING ME SENSEI?
おはは
ONCE SOMEONE HAS EVEN ONE PUBLICATION, THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE CALLED.


カチャ

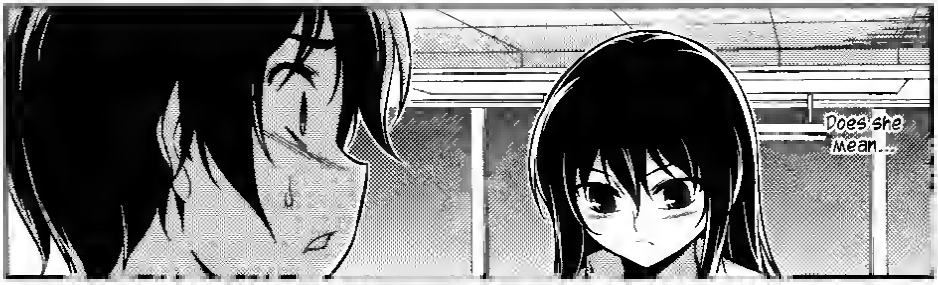
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO BE UP AND ABOUT IF YOU HAD A FEVER.
IT'S JUST SOMETHING SIMPLE, BUT I MADE SOME BREAKFAST.
...
SORRY I HAD TO USE YOUR KITCHEN WITHOUT ASKING.
WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY!
ぺこっ
JUST A MOMENT.
HUH?
OH... HAVE I BEEN A LITTLE TOO NOSY?
IF YOU DON'T MIND...
ぼそっ
WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT TOGETHER?

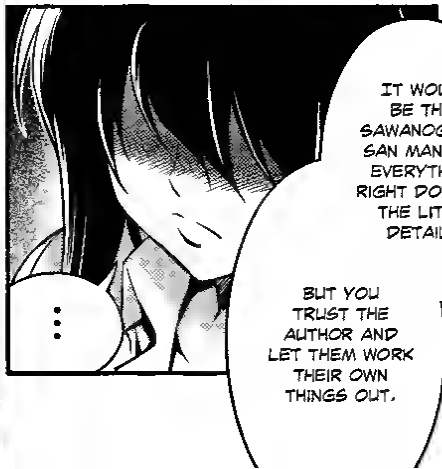
Look who I'm eating with
Man, what am I even doing?
The Chief Editor of Comic Heat...
ほろ〜
わあぁ〜
ぼろ
Japan's number one Manga Magazine!

SENPAI?
...!
SO ARE THINGS GOING PRODUCTIVELY ...
WITH HINATA-SENPAI?
WHAT'S THAT? OH, YES, THINGS ARE GOING ...
Huh?
UM, WELL...
THANKS TO ALL THE INSTRUCTION YOU'D GIVEN ME IN THE PAST...
MY FIRST PUBLICATION WAS ABLE TO EARN A GOOD POSITION IN THE RANKINGS.
...
I'M SORRY.
HOW IS WORK PROCEEDING WITH... CHIEF EDITOR SAWA-NOGUCHI?

AND NOW I'M GETTING READY FOR A THREE-CHAPTER SERIALIZATION.
I THINK MY EXPERIENCE AT COMIC HEAT WAS A REALLY BIG HELP.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE WORKING TOGETHER?
HUH?
I MEAN AT JUUMONJI'S "HEAT" AND SAWANOGUCHI'S "SPLASH."
AS AN AUTHOR...
HOW DO YOU FEEL THOSE TWO EXPERIENCES HAVE DIFFERED?
UM...
ビクッ

全ての漫画が「闘うヒロイン」！
奇数月27日発売
ヴァルキリー





I FEEL IT GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF NOT TRUSTING IN THEIR WORK.
BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IN INTERRUPTING THE AUTHOR IN THE COURSE OF THEIR WORK BY POINTING OUT DETAILS.
RATHER THAN JUST BEING PARTNERS, ISN'T IT IDEAL TO HAVE A WORKING RELATIONSHIP BUILT ON MUTUAL TRUST?
NO, NO! I'M NOT SAYING THAT EITHER STYLE IS WRONG!
ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT'S HOW YOU TWO SEEM TO DIFFER.
I ALSO BELIEVE THAT A WORK IS NOT SOLELY THE PRODUCT OF ITS AUTHOR.
IS IT SO WRONG TO THINK THAT WAY?
N-NO! OF COURSE IT ISN'T!
I THINK THAT'S THE KIND OF SITUATION ANYONE WOULD HOPE FOR!
ドキッ
ドキッ
はっ
…!?
OH! I APOLOGIZE!
OH NO, IT'S NOTHING. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT ALL.
I WAS WONDERING IF MAYBE I'D SAID SOMETHING HORRIBLE EARLIER...
IT MUST BE THE FEVER. HERE I AM, GOING OFF ON THIS STRANGE TANGENT...

SAWANOGUCHI-SAN IS GOOD AT READING THE LATEST TRENDS AND BRINGING OUT WORKS THAT FIT THEM.
PERHAPS YOU'VE NOTICED IT AS WELL, INAMINE-SAN.
AND WHAT SHE EXCELS AT IS ARRANGING THINGS TO FIT EACH AUTHOR'S IDIOSYNCRASIES.
ダラ
ダラ

OF COURSE, SHE DOESN'T HAVE A ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT SUCCESS RATE, BUT HER RESULTS ARE FAR ABOVE THE NORM.
SHE BRINGS OUT A LOT OF PERSONAL, HIGHLY INDIVIDUAL WORKS.
THANKS TO THIS TALENT OF HERS...

BUT... IS THIS TRULY A GOOD THING?

WITHOUT ANY CARE TOWARDS DRAWING OUT THEIR POTENTIAL ABILITY...
ALL SHE IMPLANTS UPON HER AUTHORS IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO CREATE A HIT PRODUCT.

ほ～"
OH! I AM VERY SORRY, INAMINE-SENSEI.
IT IS MY OWN FAILURE AS AN EDITOR...
THAT I WOULD IMPUGN UPON YOUR PROFES-SIONAL CIRCUM-STANCES.
OH, DON'T BE SILLY!
I TRULY APPRECIATE YOU BEING HERE TODAY.
……!

Depending on how her... no, how they proceed...
Inamine Kouta...
:
Oh! What's that about the two here?!
That could have felt nice for a month.
It would be ideal.
If his hidden talent is not ruined.
A novice who conceals something of his own that others lack...

とぼ
Ugh, I barely got a wink of sleep last night.
My head is spinning.
はぁ
Why don't I take a quick nap while I'm back.
ふぁ
とぼ
はっ

Oh crap!
Now that I think about it, we were starting today!
...!?
MM?
UM... GOOD MORNING!
She's gonna kill me...
YOU GOOD-FOR-NOTHING SCUMBAG!
WHAT TIME DO YOU THINK IT IS?!
YOU THINK IT'S FINE TO JUST IGNORE ME FOR FOUR HOURS? HUH?!

うぅ～
AND IT'S OUR FIRST DAY, TOO!
I'M USUALLY A NIGHT PERSON, BUT I WENT TO ALL THE EFFORT OF GETTING UP EARLY FOR THIS!
AND HERE I WAS, WITH A WHOLE LOT OF NOBODY!
AND TO MAKE THINGS EVEN WORSE, YOU WEREN'T ANSWERING YOUR PHONE!
WELL... MY BATTERY WAS DEAD AND I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO CHARGE IT.
WHAT...
DID YOU JUST SAY?
ARE YOU TRYING TO CRAP ON ME FOR SHOWING UP EARLY?!
GUAAGH!

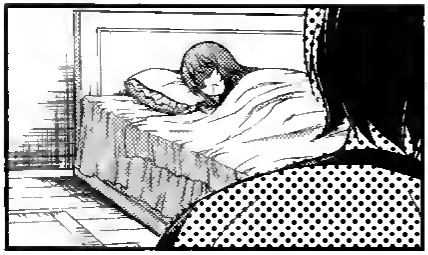
IF YOU THINK I'M NOT GONNA BE PISSED OFF AT YOU BECAUSE YOU TREATED ME TO SOME SUSHI, YOU'RE SORELY MISTAKEN!
I EVEN SKIPPED BREAKFAST SO I COULD WAIT FOR YOU.
CRIMONY ...
ANYWAY, WE NEED TO GET TO WORK QUICKLY!
WE'RE STARTING OFF WITH INKING! C'MON, UP AND AT 'EM!
SORRY...
OKAY, CAN YOU START ON THIS BACK-GROUND...
AND DO THE LINEWORK?
...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU STILL ASLEEP OR SOMETHING?

I'LL DO IT ONCE I GET DONE WITH THESE ROUGH SKETCHES...
WE MAY AS WELL HAVE BOTH OF US DO IT.
HUH?
OH YEAH, I GUESS SO.
BUT THEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WHILE I'M MAKING THE ROUGH SKETCHES, SAKOMIZU-SAN.
?
WHAT KINDA CRAP ARE YOU ON ABOUT?
GIMME THAT!
I TOLD YOU! YOU CAN DO IT AFTER THE SKETCHING
...!?
カラッ

IT'S NOT GONNA TAKE THAT MUCH TIME FOR ME TO FINISH A PAGE.
WHILE I'M DOING THAT, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT SPECIFYING THE DIRECTION DETAILS.
BLACK

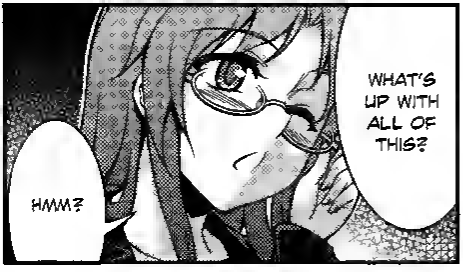
SAKOMIZU-SAN...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HUH? HOW MANY TIMES IS IT GONNA TAKE TO GET THIS THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULL?
I'M HANDLING ALL THE SKETCHING, SO YOU THINK ABOUT THE BACKGROUNDS AND THE PRO-DUCTION.
YOU GOT THAT, INAMINE KOUTA-SENSEI?!

SO YOU'RE EVEN GOING TO DO...
THE CHARACTER SKETCHES?
WHY ARE YOU...
TAKING IT THAT FAR, SAKOMIZU-SAN?
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT!
THAT'S WHY I GOT CALLED TO DO THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE!
CAN WE STOP ALL THIS INANE PRATTLE AND GET BACK TO WORK HERE?!



SAWANOGUCHI-SAN!

HUH?
IS THAT YOU, INAMINE-KUN?


WHAT'S UP WITH ALL OF THIS?
HMM?

GOOD MORNING.
OR, NO, WAIT. IS IT ALREADY NOON?

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH SAKOMIZU-SAN?
WHAT COULD YOU HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WITH HER?!
OH NO! DID SHE NOT COME TODAY?
NO, SHE CAME ALRIGHT!
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THE PROBLEM IS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SHE PROMISED ME SHE'D BE THERE FOR SURE!
Huh?
SHE EVEN WANTS TO GO SO FAR AS TO DO THE CHARACTER SKETCHES HERSELF!

...

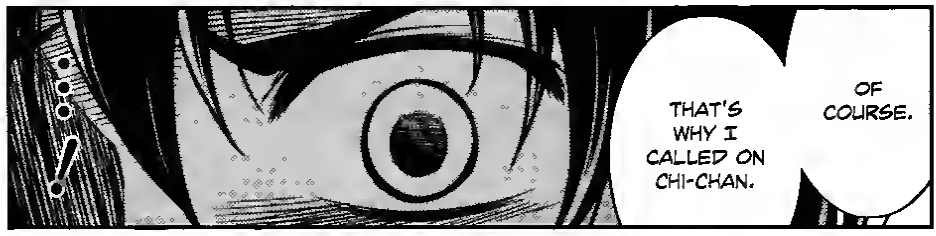
WHY IS SHE DOING THE SKETCHES FOR MY OWN MANGA?!
...

WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT THAT?
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF HER? IS SHE NOT AS GOOD AT THAT AS YOU'D EXPECTED?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!

IF CHI-CHAN CAN HANDLE THE SKETCHING, THEN THAT HELPS YOU MAKE SMOOTH, STEADY PROGRESS.
NOWADAYS, YOU'D HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING A RELIABLE ASSISTANT LIKE HER IN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.
BUT... WAIT...

WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT THAT?
...
!?

DOES THAT MEAN...
YOU HAD THIS IDEA FROM THE BEGINNING, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN?!


!
...
THAT'S WHY I CALLED ON CHI-CHAN.
OF COURSE.

AS THE GENERAL MANAGER OF YOUR STAFF...
IT IS CRUCIAL THAT YOU ARE COGNIZANT OF THE ABILITY LEVELS OF YOUR STAFF AND HOW TO ALLOT THE WORK FOR MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY.
I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU.
IT'S ONE STEP ON THE ROAD OF REGULAR SERIALIZATION.
TO PRESERVE A STABLE LEVEL OF QUALITY, IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO DIVIDE UP THE WORK.
AND ONCE A WORK GAINS POPULARITY, YOU'RE ABLE TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF STAFF.
BUT... NEVERMIND, IF IT MAKES THE WORK MORE EFFICIENT...
IF I'M ONLY DOING THE FINISHING TOUCHES AND BACKGROUNDS...
AND LEAVE THE CHARACTER SKETCHES TO SOMEONE ELSE...
COULD IT EVEN BE CALLED MY WORK?!
IT WOULDN'T BE MY MANGA ANYMORE!
YOU'RE GETTING THIS ENTIRELY WRONG, INAMINE-KUN.
...?

DO YOU REALLY THINK THERE'S ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT'S TRULY MADE BY ONLY ONE PERSON?
ONE MUST DIVIDE WORK IN ORDER TO DELIVER IT BY THE AGREED TIME. THAT IS THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING.
TAKE AN AUTOMOBILE, FOR EXAMPLE.
YOU DON'T THINK THAT ONE PERSON WOULD DO EVERYTHING FROM DESIGN TO MANUFACTURING ON THEIR OWN, DO YOU, INAMINE-KUN?
N-NO... I DON'T.
BUT... MANGA AND CARS ARE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FIELDS.
IT'S THE SAME THING.
…!?

OF ALL THE THINGS THAT CAN BE MASS-PRODUCED IN THIS WORLD, DO ANY OF THEM CARRY VALUE AS A WORK OF ART?
THE ANSWER IS NO, OF COURSE. IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE A WORK OF ART IS UNIQUE AND IMPOSSIBLE TO COPY THAT IT EARNS THE DISTINCTION.
AND MANGA BECOMES A LEGITIMATE PRODUCT AT THE POINT AT WHICH IT CAN BE MASS-PRODUCED.
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES IS MANGA A WORK OF ART.
JUST LIKE A CAR, IT'S A LEGITIMATE PRODUCT DESIGNED TO SATISFY AND BE DELIVERED INTO THE HANDS OF MANY DIFFERENT CUSTOMERS.
YOU COULD PRINT A THOUSAND OR A MILLION OF THEM, AS LONG AS THE CUSTOMER DEMAND IS THERE, RIGHT?
SO IN ORDER TO SATISFY ITS CONSUMERS, THE PRESERVATION OF A STEADY, HIGH-QUALITY SUPPLY OF THIS *PRODUCT* SHOULD BE OF THE UTMOST PRIORITY.
AM I MISTAKEN, INAMINE KOUTA-SENSEI?

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO YOU, INAMINE-KUN... YOU CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT YOUR WORK WILL BE BOTH STEADY AND OF HIGH QUALITY.
SO THEREFORE, I CALLED ON CHI-CHAN.
THIS IS THE WAY THAT YOUR ORIGINAL WORKS, BORN FROM YOUR UNIQUE SENSIBILITIES, WILL BE DELIVERED UNTO THE WORLD.
YOU'LL NEED TO GIVE YOUR STAFF SUITABLE COMPENSATION, OF COURSE.
THROUGH THE HANDS OF YOUR TRUSTWORTHY, RELIABLE STAFF, DELIVERED AT A STEADY PACE AT THE HIGHEST QUALITY.
IF THAT'S NOT PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, THEN WHAT IS IT?
…
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK...
…?
THEN WHY NOT HAVE SAKOMIZU-SAN...
DRAW THE WHOLE THING FROM THE BEGINNING?

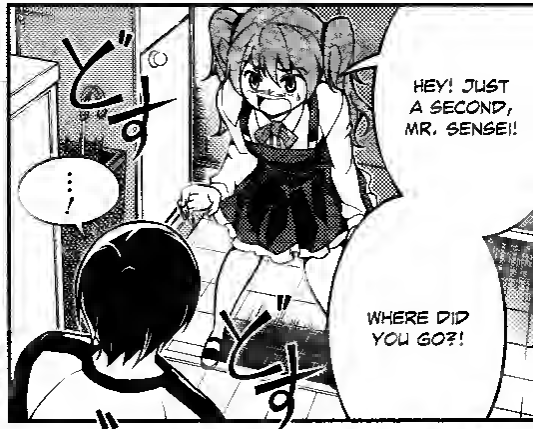
WHY HAVE ME DRAW A SINGLE THING AT ALL?!
ALL I GOTTA DO IS COME UP WITH THE ORIGINAL WORK, RIGHT?!
HOW ABOUT THAT IDEA? HUH?!

OH! IS THAT WHAT YOU'D LIKE?
WHY DON'T WE TRY MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION, THEN?
!!
FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, IT'S FINE AS LONG AS YOU CAN MAKE SALES.
I THINK THIS COULD HAVE VALUE AS AN EXPERIMENT.
BUT IN THE END, THOUGH...

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S CREATING THE ORIGINAL WORK.
AND I WONDER IF IT MIGHT BE A BIT TOO MUCH TO EXPECT YOU TO COMMUNICATE ALL OF YOUR UNIQUE VISION TO CHI-CHAN SO QUICKLY.
I GET IT, THEN...
JUST LEAVE IT TO HER.
WHAT'S THAT?
JUST HAVE SAKOMIZU-SAN DO EVERYTHING!
I'M QUITTING!

INAMINE-KUN?!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?!


HEY! JUST A SECOND, MR. SENSEI!
WHERE DID YOU GO?!
…!

OUTTA MY WAY!
OWW!

JUST WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE UP TO?!
THAT LUNKHEAD!
…!
ちらっ
ガン
ガン
ガン

We worked our hearts out together...
And I thought I'd found an editor who was chasing the same dream!
I can see that you have talent.
So I thought I'd give you a chance.
I believed in her!
ドゴッ
ドゴッ
ドゴッ
またも大きくすれ違う二人!!
今号は2話一挙掲載! 第10話239ページへ!

I couldn't resist doing this...

Let's start a war
Start a nuclear war
At the gay bar, gay bar, gay bar!

こいもく
待望のコミックス2巻
好評発売中!!
2
期待のニューカマー登場!?
こいもく
CIMOC
STORY OF CARTOONIST AND TRUE LOVE / PRESENTED BY ARTLIM MEDIA
第10話
原作 林達
作画 海源
ARTLIM MEDIA

カーンカーン
DAAn♪
DAAn♪
DAAn♪
カチャ
Maybe he can't hear me?
INAMINE-SENSEEEI!
コンコン
ガさっ
ガラガラ
Inamine-sen?
PARDON ME! I HAD A DAY OFF FROM WORK SO I THOUGHT I'D BRING A LITTLE SOMETHING OVER!
IT'S MIKI!

こそ
こそ

They're so busy that they even have to catch naps while they sit in their chair.
So it's true what they say about the pros...

I know what I can do!
Great!

I'll hug him close and soothe his worries.
むぎゅ
…!?
PWAAH! WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?!
HMMF?!
MRGH!
Uh oh! Was that too much?
…!?

Wha...?
WHO... WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU TRYIN' TO PULL?!
ARE YOU TRYING TO SMOTHER ME OR SOMETHING?!
WHAT?!
BUT... WAIT... WHO ARE YOU?
WELL, THE DOOR WAS UNLOCKED, SO I JUST CAME IN...
UM... I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'M ONE OF INAMINE-SAN'S FANS.
WELL, UM, I...
YOU'RE HIS ASSISTANT?
びくっ
I'M THE ASSISTANT TO THAT GOOD-FOR-NOTHING CHUMP!
ER... NO, I'M NOT A BURGLAR!
WHAT KIND OF FAN SNEAKS INTO SOMEWHERE TO SMOTHER SOMEONE WITH THEIR BOOBS?!
ANYWAY, MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE IS INAMINE-SAN?
WHAT ARE YOU, HIS PAID COMPANY? OR MAYBE A BURGLAR?!

What?!
THAT DOPE STILL WON'T COME BACK, NO MATTER HOW LATE IT GETS!
AND NOW I'VE WASTED THIS WHOLE FRIGGIN' DAY!
...?
JEEZ, I SHOULD BE THE ONE ASKING YOU THAT!
THE DEADLINE'S COMING UP SO I TOLD HIM I'D BE WAITIN' HERE!

COMICS & INTERNET
MANGA CAFE 24H
UNGH...
OOOH...
おしっ

GYAAAH!
もみ
もみ
WAAH! I'M SORRY!
I SWEAR I DIDN'T DO THAT ON PURPOSE!
……?
……!?
ぼ゛

びくっ
OH! WELL GOOD MORNING!
INAMINE... KUN?
AH! UM... GOOD MORNING!
What the?
How does she know my name?
AND YOU ARE...?
Oh yeah, that's right...
I didn't go home last night.
I must have lost track of time at the manga cafe.
I think they're all great!
With OZMA's stuff, every one of them is the best!
Ooh, you're an OZMA fan, huh?
So which one do you think is the best, then?
Thanks...
Wait, is this beer? I thought we're not supposed to bring alcohol in here.
C'mon! Let's drink up!
Awesome! Y'know, I think the two of us are gonna get along great!

I feel like drinking today!
Actually, you know what, I'll do it!
Nah, don't sweat it! All that matters is that we have it!
But... what if the staff catches us with...
Booyah! That's the spirit, stud!
Now I remember...
I was so concerned with not getting caught that I just chugged them all down really quick.

AHH! I SLEPT LIKE A LOG!
Wow... now that I look at her again, I realize she's gorgeous.
I didn't even have the wherewithal to notice that yesterday.
OZMA
1
That reminds me, the manuscript...!

LET'S GO GET SOME BREAKFAST TOGETHER!
...?
It must be too late at this point.
I'm done for!
HEY, SO...
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
HUH?
OSMU Soft
coffee
FINAL
I've been anywhere since I've been out of bed this time of morning
So where should we go...
ANYTHING YOU WANNA EAT?
I GUESS THE SAFE BET WOULD BE A DINER OR SOMETHING.
...

I get the feeling it might be a cabaret club or something.
キョロ
キョロ
I wonder what kind of job she has.
OKAY, LEAVE IT TO ME, THEN!
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY PREFERENCE
WELL, THERE'S ONE PLACE NEAR HERE THAT I GO TO ALL THE TIME...
WANNA TRY IT?
HUH?
IT'S ACTUALLY A BAR, THOUGH.
I'VE KNOWN THE OWNER FOR A LONG TIME. I'M SURE WE COULD GET SOMETHING SIMPLE.
OH. . WELL MAYBE I SHOULD JUST CALL IT HERE AND...
WHAT? YOU'RE GOING HOME? YOU'RE SAYING YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE BREAKFAST WITH ME?
N-NO! I DIDN'T MEAN THAT AT ALL! L-LET'S GO!
C'MON! IT'LL BE MY TREAT!
IT MIGHT NOT BE YOUR USUAL PLACE, BUT I CAN GUARANTEE IT'LL HAVE ITS CHARM!
IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT I MEET SOMEONE I REALLY GET ALONG WITH LIKE YOU, INAMINE-KUN!
W-WHOA, WAIT A SECOND! YOU DON'T HAVE TO...

Well...
I guess this doesn't feel so bad.

NEKO NEKO
BAR&CAFE
It's a... gay bar?!
RUNE-CHAN... WOULD YOU MIND DOING ME A FAVOR AND STOP POPPING IN FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?
YOU KNOW THIS IS WHEN I GO TO SLEEP, DON'T YOU?
I'M SO SORRY!
BUT... I WAS UP LATE LAST NIGHT, AND I WAS HOPING I COULD COME HAVE SOME OF YOUR LOVELY PORK MISO SOUP...
うるうる
OOH, NOW DIDN'T I TELL YOU THAT YOU'LL RUIN THAT SKIN OF YOURS IF YOU DON'T GET ENOUGH SLEEP, DEAR?
FINE, FINE. PORK MISO SOUP IT IS. HOLD YOUR HORSES.
YAAAY! THAT'S WHY I LOVE YOU! TWO ORDERS, PLEASE!

HUH?
ぶるぶる
ぶるぶる
ぶるぶる
WOW... I DON'T REALLY KNOW MUCH ABOUT BARS.
This is the first time I've ever been somewhere like this.
WHADDYA THINK? ISN'T THIS PLACE GREAT?
IT MAY NOT LOOK LIKE IT, BUT THE OWNER IS REALLY NICE AND THIS PLACE IS ALWAYS PACKED!
Is that from Sawanoguchi-san?!
Voice Mail
36 New
Waah!
Thirty six?!
That's it! I'm finished for sure!
HUH?
WHO'S THAT FROM, YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

UM... NO!
NOTHING LIKE THAT! IT'S SOMEONE FROM WORK.
WORK, HUH?
ISN'T THIRTY SIX MESSAGES A LITTLE MUCH?
YOU MUST HAVE A PRETTY ROUGH JOB, I IMAGINE.
NO, IT'S JUST... I'M ON A DEADLINE.
I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE MANUSCRIPT OUT AT THIS POINT...
Huh?
WHAT'S THAT? A MANUSCRIPT? AND A DEADLINE?
OH, I'M SORRY. I WAS JUST MUTTERING TO MYSELF.
What the?!
TELL ME MORE! I WANNA KNOW EVERYTHING!

WELL, UM... ACTUALLY...
I GUESS I... MAKE MANGA...
MANGA?
WOW, THAT'S GREAT! WHAT WAS THE TITLE OF IT?
IT WAS CALLED "THE NAME OF THE SEASONS." IT'S NOTHING REALLY WORTH MENTIONING...
ALL THEY'VE LET ME DO SO FAR IS GET ONE STORY OUT.
BUT STILL, I'M JUST A BEGINNER AT IT!

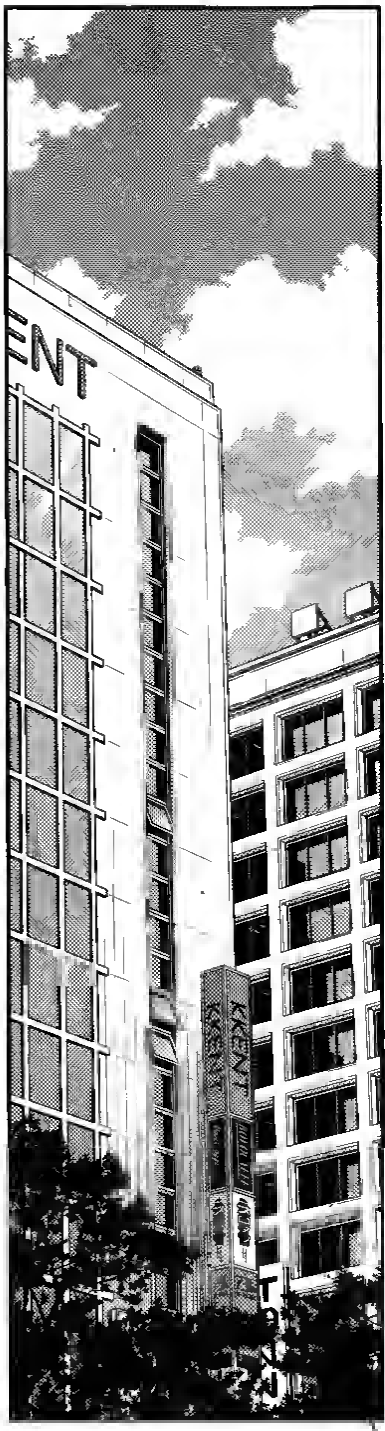
THE NAME OF THE SEASONS? I THINK THAT WAS...
COMIC SPLASH, IF I RECALL?
HUH?
YOU KNOW ABOUT IT?
YEAH, TOTALLY!
WOW, SO IT WAS YOU THAT WROTE THAT, INAMINE-KUN!
She...
Actually read my work?
シーン
Or maybe...
It was just because it was published in the Magazine
...!
But...
...?
There's not much point now...

IT'S NOT LIKE I REMEMBER EVERYTHING I READ!
YOU MUST REALLY LOVE MANGA, RUNE-SAN.
YOU EVEN REMEMBERED MY LITTLE WORK.
Y'KNOW, THE OLD FELLA HIMSELF TOLD ME THE SAME THING.
OH! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
OH, AND I EVEN PUT YOUR WORK ON THE SURVEY CARD TOO.
NO, NO! I REMEMBER IT BECAUSE IT MADE A BIG IMPRESSION ON ME!
TO THINK THAT YOU'RE ONLY A NOVICE—
COMIC SPLASH HAS GOT THEIR HANDS ON A PRETTY MIGHTY WEAPON HERE!!
OH, NO! DON'T BE SILLY!
IT'S NOT REALLY A VERY BIG PUBLISHER.
IF IT'S JUST A ONE-OFF LIKE THAT THEN IT'S PRETTY SIMPLE TO GET IT PUBLISHED.

WELL I'LL BE...
SO IT'S THAT SIMPLE FOR ANYONE?
I BET THE KIDS WHO ARE TRYING TO GET PUBLISHED IN SPLASH SURE WOULDN'T LIKE HEARING THAT.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I...
MY SUCCESS WASN'T BECAUSE I WAS STRUGGLING ON MY OWN.
IT WAS THANKS TO THE HELP OF THE PEOPLE AROUND ME AND MY EDITORS THAT I FINALLY...
That's right...

My accomplishments up to this point are due to everyone else's help.
They all believed in me. And I finally seemed to be on the right track...
I had all that going for me...
YOU KNOW... I SCREWED IT ALL UP.
EVERYONE HAD GIVEN ME THEIR SUPPORT AND I WAS SEEING SOME RESULTS AT LAST. BUT EVEN THEN...

I HAVE A SUSPICION THAT THE EDITING DEPARTMENT IS EXPECTING A LOT FROM YOU.
SO DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOUR NEXT PUBLICATION WILL BE?
OH, THAT?
WHAT HAPPENED? YOU'RE GETTIN' AWFULLY REFLECTIVE ALL OF A SUDDEN.
NOTHING WRONG WITH BEING PROUD OF YOUR DEBUT IN THE BUSINESS.
...
ACTUALLY, I'D GOTTEN THE GO-AHEAD FOR A THREE CHAPTER SERIALIZATION.
WHOA! A SERIALIZATION!
THAT'S GREAT! IT'LL BE YOUR BIG CHANCE!
BUT AREN'T WE A NAUGHTY BOY! WHAT'S A REGULAR AUTHOR DOING SPENDING ALL NIGHT IN A MANGA CAFE?
YOU REALLY GOT THE TIME TO SPEND?
OR DON'T TELL ME YOU COULDN'T TAKE ALL THE PRESSURE AND RAN AWAY FROM IT ALL! IT'S NOT THAT, RIGHT? RIGHT?
Huh? Huh?
THAT'S CORRECT.
トホホ…
Wha?



…!?

I RAN AWAY FROM IT.

I'VE THROWN AWAY EVERY-THING.

SO I SEE...
IT WAS YOUR OWN WORK...
BUT YOU DIDN'T FEEL LIKE IT WAS YOURS ANYMORE.
MY ORIGINAL WORK HAD BEEN HEAVILY ALTERED, AND THEN EVEN THE SKETCHES WERE GOING TO BE HANDLED BY SOMEONE ELSE.
I FELT LIKE THERE WAS NO POINT IN ME EVEN BEING THERE.
IF I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IF I WAS MAKING WHAT I WANTED TO MAKE...
I FIGURED THAT QUITTING ALTOGETHER MIGHT BE THE BETTER OPTION.
ずずっ
THAT WAS MY THOUGHT PROCESS, ANYWAY.
カチャ

THIS WHOLE THING IS PRETTY SILLY OF YOU, INAMINE-KUN.
WHAT?
NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!
JUST BEFORE YOU WERE SAYING THAT THE REASON YOU CAME THIS FAR WAS BECAUSE OF EVERYONE HELPING YOU.
AND NOW BECAUSE THERE'S MORE PEOPLE HELPING YOU, YOU'RE QUITTING BECAUSE IT'S NOT YOUR WORK ANYMORE?
IF THE AUTHOR THEMSELVES DOESN'T DRAW IT, HOW CAN THEY SAY IT'S THEIR OWN WORK?
IN EFFECT, YOU'RE JUST TRICKING THE READER!
...

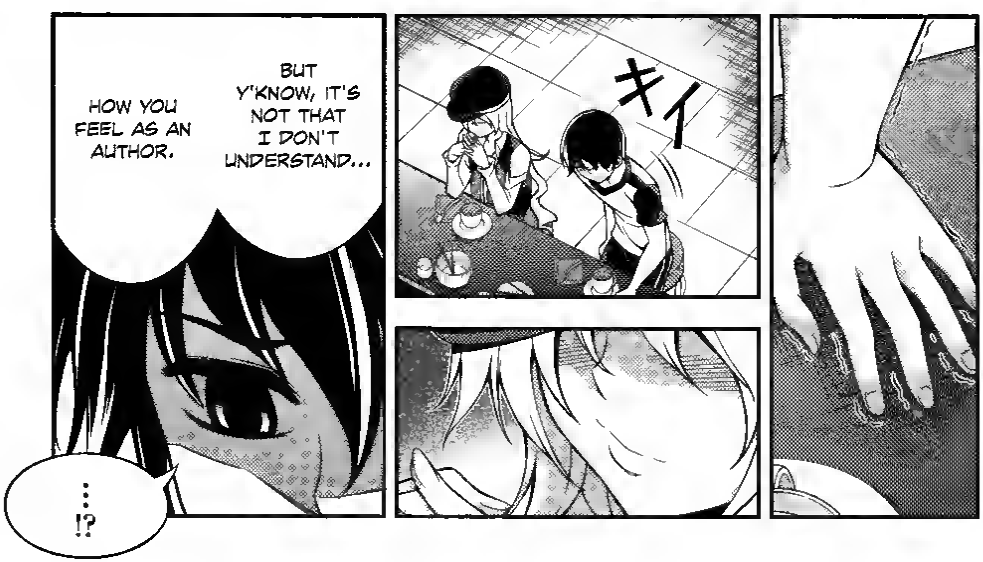
LEMME ASK YOU ONE QUESTION. WHAT IS IT, EXACTLY, THAT MAKES SOMETHING ONE'S OWN WORK?
ONE'S.. WHAT?
THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPORTING YOUR ORIGINAL CONCEPT, HELPING YOU WITH THE SKETCHES...
EDITING, BOOKBINDING, DISTRIBUTION, ADVERTISING, AND SO ON. ALL OF THESE THINGS...
ARE DONE IN THE NAME OF ONE INAMINE KOUTA.
AREN'T THEY ALL WORKING HARD ON YOUR BEHALF SO YOUR WORK CAN BE READ BY A WIDER AUDIENCE?

RATHER, ISN'T IT THE DUTY OF THE AUTHOR TO REDUCE THE BURDEN ON THEMSELVES SO THEY CAN MAKE THE STORY MORE INTERESTING?
ピクッ
IS IT REALLY SO BAD THAT SOMEONE'S HELPING YOU WITH THE SKETCHES?
YOU...
HOW IS ANY OF WHAT I'M SAYING WRONG?
...!!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MANGA, SO QUIT RUNNING YOUR MOUTH OFF!
ALL YOU ARE IS JUST ONE READER! HOW COULD YOU KNOW WHAT THIS INDUSTRY IS LIKE? MANGA ISN'T THAT SIMPLE!
WHAT YOU'RE COMPLAINING ABOUT...
IS THAT THE EDITORS WANT YOU TO HOLD YOUR TONGUE UNTIL YOU'RE AN ACCOMPLISHED MANGA ARTIST, IS IT NOT?
YOU SHOULD MULL THIS OVER FOR A BIT, INAMINE-SENSEI.

THIS WHOLE THING... ISN'T IT JUST A MATTER OF EGO?
E-EGO?
MAYBE YOU COULD JUSTIFY IT IF YOU WERE A VETERAN, BUT...
ガシャン
YOU'RE STILL A FRESH-FACED NOVICE, RIGHT? IF YOU DON'T GET RESULTS THEN THEY'RE NOT GOING TO KEEP YOU AROUND FOR VERY LONG, ARE THEY?
THAT'S PRECISELY THE REASON WHY SUCCESSFUL EDITORS AND PEOPLE WITH A LOT OF EXPERIENCE...
ARE GIVING YOU ADVICE, FOR YOUR OWN BENEFIT.
AND THEY'RE ANALYZING WHERE YOUR WEAKNESSES MAY LIE.
YOU THINK THAT IT'S NOT YOUR WORK IF IT'S NOT DRAWN BY YOUR OWN HAND...
THAT YOU'RE NOT THE AUTHOR?
What on earth is this?
How can she possibly know this much about the industry?

THE REASON THAT YOU MADE YOUR DEBUT IN COMIC SPLASH...
IS SO THAT YOU COULD MAKE USE OF THE PUBLISHER AND BRING YOUR WORK TO THE ATTENTION OF A WIDER AUDIENCE, RIGHT?
SO I THINK FIRST OF ALL YOU NEED TO SHOW THEM THAT THEY CAN RELY ON YOU AS A PARTNER.
YOU WANT TO MAKE USE OF THE PUBLISHER'S RESOURCES...
BUT YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO AFFECT HOW YOU GO ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS IN ANY WAY.
TO BE FRANK, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME.
IF THAT'S NOT EGO, THEN WHAT IS?
What the?! Who in the world is this person?!
What the hell is going on here?!

COMIC SPLASH BELIEVES IN YOUR TALENT.
THEY'RE MAKING AN INVESTMENT IN YOU AND GIVING YOU A REALLY BIG CHANCE.
WHY NOT TRUST THEM A LITTLE MORE AND WORK TOGETHER WITH THEM?
HOW ABOUT IT, INAMINE-KUN?
ドドド
ooo!
Rather than just being partners...
built on mutual trust?
Isn't it ideal to have a working relation-ship...
ドクン


BUT Y'KNOW, IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
HOW YOU FEEL AS AN AUTHOR.
キイ
……!?

RUNE-SAN...
WHO ON EARTH *ARE* YOU?

ALL OF THIS STUFF THAT'S BUGGING YOU NOW...
IT'S THE SAME ROLLER COASTER RIDE EVERYONE GOES THROUGH WHEN THEY'RE LEARNING TO MAKE MANGA.
A LOT OF PEOPLE FALL BACK ON BLAMING THEIR PROBLEMS ON OTHER PEOPLE.
I'M PROBABLY SOUNDING LIKE I'M SCOLDING YOU. MAYBE I SHOULDN'T STICK MY NOSE IN YOUR BUSINESS.

JUST A SECOND...

WHO HAS EVEN MORE OF THE "AUTHOR'S EGO" LEFT IN HIM THAN YOU, INAMINE-KUN.
THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE...
HEY, WOULD YOU HAVE A LITTLE MORE TIME?
I'LL TAKE YOU SOME-WHERE EVEN BETTER.
...?
...!?
WHY NOT COME AND MEET THEM YOURSELF?

ROY
制1製作
STUDIO
So this place...
is a studio?
OKAY! C'MON IN!
ALRIGHT
It's nice of her to take me here... but is this really a good thing?

You know what, this is fine!
Now I can see whether what Rune-san said is really true!
耕太謎のアトリエに潜入……！
月刊ヴァルキリー
2012年1月27日発売予定
3月号に続く!!

FTH SCANS
SOBA SCANS
こいもく
Koimoku
Chapter 11

Iron Mangaka OZMA vs. Challenger Inamine Kouta

Today's secret ingredient at the manga studio...
An overdose of moe! And so I say to you,
with anxious eyes, and an open mind...
LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!

こいもく

CIMOC

STORY OF CARTOONIST AND TRUE LOVE / PRESENTED BY ARTLIM MEDIA

登場人物

稲峰耕太
漫画家を目指して上京してきたものの全く芽が出ない事に悩む青年。

沢野口日向
コミックスプラッシュ編集長にして耕太のアパートのお隣さん。

十文字さやか
コミックヒート編集長、日向の後輩

藤原美樹
近所に住んでいる女の子で、耕太のファン第1号。

ルネ
漫画喫茶で耕太と知り合った、OZMA好きとして意気投合

峰龍二郎
大ヒット漫画「千万クラブ」の作者

迫水千佳
耕太が日向に紹介されたアシスタント。

あらすじ

女編集長と漫画家を目指す少年との恋の物語!?

アシスタントに作業の大半を任せ、漫画制作の効率化を第一と提案する日向のやり方に納得のいかない耕太は、勢いで家を飛び出してしまう。行く宛もなく、漫画喫茶で一夜を過ごした耕太はそこでルネと名乗る人物と知り合い、同じ漫画好きとして意気投合する。しかし徐々に漫画に対しルネは深い造詣を見せ始め、耕太は自身がわがままを言っているだけだと諭される。果たしてルネの正体とは――?

ダイジェスト

日向の容赦無い一言

ルネの漫画に対する知識に唖然

この握手の子は一体…?

FOR THE BEST CREATIVE WORK YOU NEED THE BEST MATERIALS & EQUIPMENT

こいもく

第11話

CIMOC

STORY OF CARTOONIST AND TRUE LOVE / PRESENTED BY ARTLIM MEDIA

story work 原作 林達永 by ARTLIM MEDIA

graphic work 作画 海源

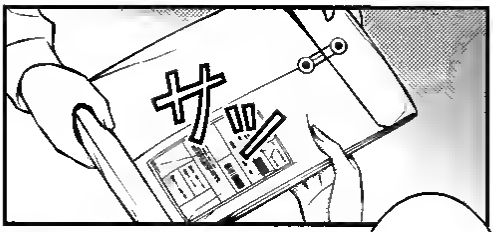
仕事に熱が入らない日向…
やっぱり耕太の事が心配!?

コミックス1〜2巻
好評発売中!!

コミックス3巻2月下旬発売予定!!

EIDANSHA PUBLISHING
ガタガタッ
GREAT.
SOUNDS GOOD.
ガタッ
ざわざわ
DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE THESE NEW KIDS ARE ALL JUST CHASING THE SAME TREND NOWADAYS?
HUH? WHAT TREND?
ガタッ
VERY WELL. WE'LL BEGIN SYNDICATING TAKOMACHI-SENSEI'S "OCTO-GIRL REVOLUTION" SERIES IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
…!
OZMA'S STUFF.
OH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
BUT I GUESS THAT'S JUST WHAT'S HOT LATELY, Y'KNOW?
YEAH, I SUPPOSE MOE MATERIAL IS ALL THE RAGE THESE DAYS.
ONCE THE READERS GET A TASTE FOR SOME FAD, A BUNCH OF AUTHORS LEAP ON IT.
YEAH... MAYBE SO...
…
HEART CATCH CHAPTER 21 HAS ARRIVED!
…?


サッ

THAT'S MINE-SENSEI FOR YOU.
HE DOES THINGS A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY THAN THE YOUNG AUTHORS THESE DAYS.
ペラ
ペラ

SOME PEOPLE HOLD THE OPINION THAT HIS MATERIAL DOESN'T REALLY MESH WELL WITH CREATING MODERN MIXED MEDIA PROPERTIES.
BUT HIS WORKS HAVE BEEN MADE INTO TV SHOWS AND MOVIES, HAVE THEY HOT?

WELL, YOU GOT ME THERE, BUT...

BUT I HEAR HE HAS A REPUTATION OF BEING A LITTLE OLD FASHIONED.

!?
BUT STILL, WHY NOT TRY AN EXPERIMENT...
AND RUN ONE OF OZMA'S SERIES, JUST TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS?
LIKE, TAKE OZMA, FOR EXAMPLE. HE'S COME UP WITH COUNTLESS HIT SERIES THAT HE KNEW HE WAS GOING TO TURN INTO ANIME.
AND ONE OF OUR COMPETITORS, COMIC GUARDIAN, HAS RUN HIS SERIES AND REAPED QUITE THE BENEFIT FROM IT.
...
THEY WILL DO AS THEY LIKE, AND WE WILL DO AS WE LIKE.
WELL, I GUESS THEIR SALES DON'T REALLY COME CLOSE TO OURS.
ONE OF OZMA'S SERIES?
DON'T YOU LIKE THE IDEA?
THE SALES NUMBERS WILL SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.
COMIC GUARDIAN SEEMS TO HAVE SIGNED OZMA ON UNDER SPECIAL TERMS, BUT IT BROUGHT THEIR SALES UP 25 PERCENT. I BET WE COULD ALSO...
I HAVE NO PLANS OF ENTERTAINING THE IDEA.

OUR EDITING POLICY IS TO GIVE AS MANY NEW AUTHORS AS POSSIBLE THEIR OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE.
...
I DO NOT FEEL THAT WE NEED TO EXTEND THAT COURTESY TO ESTABLISHED ARTISTS THAT WE HAVE NOT WORKED WITH BEFORE.
WELL, THAT'S AN ADMIRABLE EDITING POLICY...
BUT I WONDER IF YOU'RE MISSING THE BIG PICTURE HERE, CHIEF.
EIBUNSHA PUBLISHING, COMIC HEAT...
REALLY, THE WHOLE INDUSTRY IS LOOKING AT A VERY UNCERTAIN FUTURE RIGHT NOW.
ブォーン
ブォーン

If it were for him...
I would throw myself away.
What would we even gain from him?!
Are we just going to manipulate readers to sell more product?
No...
ぎゅっ
We need no such thing at our magazine!
ブオオオ
キイイッ

キキッ
ブォン ブォン
WE HAVE ARRIVED, SIR.
ガチャ
THANKS.
コツ
IT'S AS CRAMPED AS EVER IN HERE.
HOW LONG AGO DID THEY BUILD THIS PARKING GARAGE?
コツ
コツ

BUT I SUPPOSE YOU COULD SAY IT HAS ITS HISTORY TO IT.

A-
Team

そじ
そじ
What is this place?
An anime production studio, maybe?
There's so much tension in the air...
This place feels like a realtion's den...

RUNE-SAN!
カチャ
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, INAMINE-KUN!
UM... AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
トン
ビク
OH!
I, UM...
…?
AH! THAT'S MY GUEST!

HE'S YOUR GUEST, CHIEF?
Chief?!
YEAH. I HOPED HE COULD MEET THE BOSS, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S OUT AT THE MOMENT...
THE DIRECTOR SAID THAT HE HAD A MEETING AT EIDANSHA PUBLISHING, SO HE WOULDN'T BE IN TODAY.
OH NO... REALLY?
It's too bad the timing didn't work...
WELL, THEM'S THE BREAKS.
BUT YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...
SO WHY DON'T I GIVE YOU A GUIDED TOUR OF THE PLACE!
がばっ
HUH?!
IT SHOULD BE OKAY, RIGHT TAKANAMI?
A... GUIDED TOUR?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
AWW, C'MON! HE'S AN UP-AND-COMING AUTHOR, Y'KNOW!
AN... AUTHOR?!

OH! ARE YOU IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME COLORING, TAKANAMI?
THAT'LL BE PERFECT! SHOW HIM WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
HUH? I'M STILL PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON IT SO IT MIGHT NOT BE A GOOD THING TO SHOW...
NAH, IT'S COOL! QUIT WHININ' AND SHOW HIM!
WELL... ALRIGHT, I GUESS IT'S OKAY...
ぽか
That hurts
ぽか!
C'mon! Take a look!
OKAY...
What could they even be making?
WOW, THAT TURNED OUT REALLY GOOD! DID YOU SHOW KENJI-SAN YET?
YEAH, ALL I HAVE LEFT TO DO IS TO CHECK THE COLOR TONES.
...

K!!
!?

IT'S AN... OZMA TITLE, ISN'T IT?!
OOH, SO YOU KNOW THIS ONE TOO?
WAIT... ISN'T THIS...
...?

WHY ARE YOU WORKING ON OZMA ILLUSTRATIONS HERE?
B-BUT...
LOOK, I DON'T WANNA SOUND LIKE A JERK, BUT CAN YOU KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN? EVERYBODY'S TRYING TO WORK...
AH! I'M SORRY!
DID HE UH... OUTSOURCE IT TO YOU OR SOMETHING?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THIS IS OZMA'S STUDIO, MAN.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT WE'D BE DOING THE WORK ON OUR OWN TITLES, Y'KNOW?

…？
…

WHAAAAA?!
ドッ
!?
ビクッ
BRRMF!

C'MON, INAMINE-KUN! EASY PARTNER, EASY!
EVERYONE'S WORKING AWAY, SO KEEP THAT VOLUME NICE AND LOW, NOW!
Mmrrp!
ぼ～う
DIDN'T YOU SEE THE SIGN WHEN YOU CAME IN?
This is OZMA's studio?!
NOW, NOW!
OZMA?!
URM...
MMF?
IT SAID "OZMA PRODUCTION STUDIO 1."
ガーン

IT... IT DID?
THEN... THIS REALLY IS...
ぷは
SO... RUNE-SAN, DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU RE...
OH, ME?
YEPPERS, I'M ONE OF THE AUTHORS WORKING HERE!
AND I'M ALSO THE ART DIRECTOR FOR THE "REVOLUTION X 2" PROJECT YOU JUST SAW THERE.
OZMA STUDIO CHIEF IWASAKI RUNE, AT YOUR SERVICE!
It's a little awkward to go through this again, but nice to meet you!
ドドド

RUNE-SAN!
YOU'RE A MANGA ARTIST?!
BINGO!
UM... WE ASKED YOU GUYS TO KEEP IT DOWN
YOU'RE OZMA'S... CHIEF?
AND AN... ART DIRECTOR?
SO THEN... THAT MAKES YOU...
"OZMA" IS JUST A COLLECTION OF AUTHORS. DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT?
SO... OZMA REALLY IS A GROUP OF AUTHORS.
HEY! TAKANAMI!
YOU DONE WITH THE REVO REVO VOLUME 12 COVER?!

I CAN GUARANTEE IT'LL BE FINISHED BY 2 PM!
AH! I'M SORRY! I'M JUST PUTTING THE LAST TOUCHES ON!
ポリ
ポリ
ビクッ
What's all this fuss?
MMM?

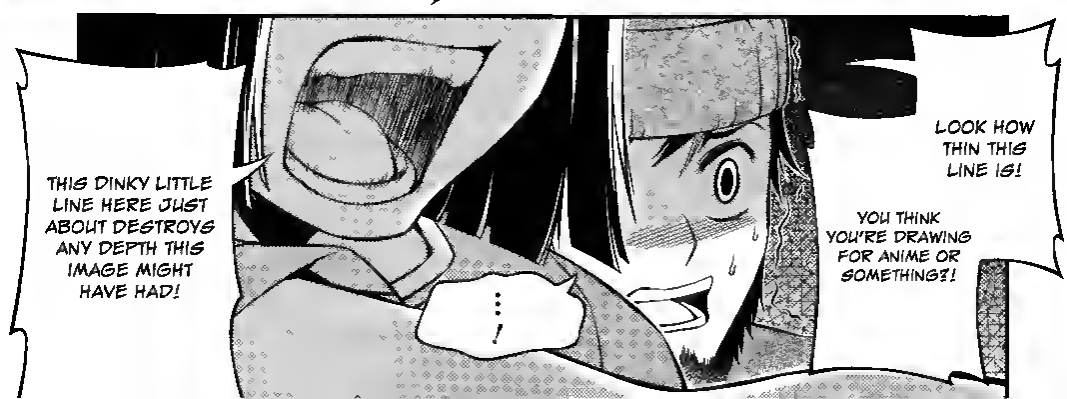
RUNE! YOU'VE BEEN SKIPPIN' OUT AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU?!
SOME MANAGER YOU ARE... THIS IS *YOUR* PROJECT, AND YOU SAID YOU'D BE IN HERE FOLLOWING UP ON IT UNTIL IT WAS DONE!
…!?
GYEEE! I'M SORRY!
I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS YOU WERE HERE, KENJI-SAN!
ちら
ゴッゴッ
…!?
びくっ

ENLARGE THAT.
AH! OKAY!

カチ
カチ

Jeez...
That's a terrifying glare right there...
AND WHAT'S THIS?
WHY DID YOU PUMP UP THE SATURATION HERE?
DOES THIS LOOK LIKE SKIN? YOU GAVE IT A METALLIC TEXTURE.
I TOLD YOU TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO THE TEXTURES ON THE BUSTS AND BUTTS. DID YOU FORGET THAT ALREADY?
N-NO, IT'S JUST... THE BACKDROP IS REALLY BRIGHT, AND THAT'S THE BEST I COULD DO WITH THAT TEXTURE...
WHAT?
THE BEST YOU COULD DO?
AND MERELY BECAUSE... THE BACKDROP WAS BRIGHT...
SO WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME...
IS THAT YOU CAN'T HACK IT?

全ての漫画が「闘うヒロイン」！
奇数月27日発売
ヴァルキリー



GET RID OF THAT COLOR LAYER AND START OVER FROM THE LINE DRAWING!
IF YOU WANNA USE THAT COLOR THEN GET THE LINES TO SUPPORT IT IN THE FIRST PLACE, DAMMIT!
B-BUT... I DON'T THINK I HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO RESTART FROM THE LINE DRAWING...
YOU'RE GONNA MAKE THAT TIME, YOU GOT IT?!
Y-YES SIR!
BREAK ROOM
I REALLY DO APOLOGIZE, INAMINE-KUN!
NOT ONLY DID YOU MISS OUT ON MEETING THE BOSS...
BUT THE TOUR DIDN'T AMOUNT TO MUCH AFTER YOU GOT DRAGGED INTO THAT WHOLE KERFLUFFLE...
IT'S OKAY. I'M FINE.

I'M SURPRISED, THOUGH...
I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE YOU'RE ONE OF OZMA'S AUTHORS, RUNE-SAN.
こく
こく
はっ
So, this is the place...
This is OZMA's studio?
I MEAN, I'D HEARD THAT OZMA WAS AN AUTHOR COLLECTIVE, BUT...
I HAD NO IDEA THAT THIS WAS THE KIND OF ENVIRONMENT THAT ALL THOSE WORKS WERE MADE IN.
WAS IT DIFFERENT THAN YOU IMAGINED?
そ、そ
I GUESS SO...

YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE AN OZMA FAN, RIGHT?
OH! YEAH, OF COURSE! I'M A HUGE FAN!
EVERY ONE OF THOSE MANGA ARE MADE HERE.
INCLUDING REVO REVO, WHICH I MADE MYSELF.
IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE... SOME KIND OF MILITARY OPERATION.
...
Hold on!
THE ART TEAM WILL DO IT. IT'S NOT AN ISSUE.
What?
...
!?
THAT REMINDS ME, RUNE-SAN, WHAT ABOUT THAT ILLUSTRATION RETOUCHING FROM EARLIER?
HUH?
OH, WHAT, THAT?
IF YOU'RE THE ART DIRECTOR, THEN DON'T YOU NEED TO DO THAT YOURSELF?

THE... ART TEAM?
YEAH. THEY DO EVERYTHING FROM THE MANUSCRIPT SKETCHES TO THE FINAL INKING.
ROOM
SO... EVERY LAST PART OF THE PROCESS?
OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME YOU DIDN'T LIKE OTHER PEOPLE DRAWING YOUR SKETCHES.
BUT HERE, IT'S SIMPLY BUSINESS AS USUAL.
AND THAT DOESN'T JUST APPLY TO THE ART, EITHER.
PLANNING, DESIGN... REALLY, JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING INVOLVING THE MANGA...
...!?
EVERY ASPECT OF IT IS DIVIDED UP AND HANDLED BY PEOPLE WHO SPECIALIZE IN IT.

ART GOES TO PEOPLE WHO ARE GOOD AT ART. SCENARIO CREATION GOES TO THOSE WHO ARE GOOD AT THAT. EVERYTHING IS GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE WHO EXCEL IN THEIR FIELD.
THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE THE APPEAL INHERENT IN THE WORK AND ALSO AIM IT AT THE LATEST TRENDS.
AND THEN THE DIRECTOR IS THE PERSON WHO CAN CARRY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OVERSEEING THE ENDEAVOR.
AND THEN THERE'S A DIRECTOR WHO MANAGES THE ENTIRE PROCESS.
SO THE DIRECTORS HERE AREN'T ACTUALLY AUTHORS.
THEY AREN'T? SO WHAT ROLE DO THE AUTHORS PLAY?
WELL, AN AUTHOR CAN'T REALLY VIEW THEIR OWN WORK OBJECTIVELY, CAN THEY?
NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRY, THEY CAN'T REMOVE THEIR OWN EGO FROM IT.
SO HOW ARE THEY GOING TO BE ABLE TO GUARANTEE THAT THEY CAN GET THE READERS HOOKED ON THEIR STUFF?

IT'S WHAT WE CALL THE DIRECTOR SYSTEM HERE.
IT'S OZMA'S PROPRIETARY MANGA CREATION FORMULA.
ぽんっ
ONCE YOU PUT IT ALL TOGETHER, WHAT THE INDUSTRY CALLS "OZMA"...
ドドド

IF THEY'RE ALL DIVIDED INTO PIECES LIKE THAT...
BUT... THE MANUSCRIPT... AND THE SKETCHING... AND THE INKING...
THAT'S... OZMA?
SO... IT'S A SYSTEM FOR DIVIDING UP WORK?
WOULDN'T IT BE MORE ACCURATE TO CALL THIS PLACE A FACTORY?
WELL, PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN THE INDUSTRY WOULD DISMISS IT THAT WAY!
YEAH, DEFINITELY!
はっ
OH! I'M SORRY!
I WAS JUST...

IT'S OKAY. BUT YOU KNOW...
YOU'VE SAID THAT YOU'RE A BIG FAN OF THE WORKS CREATED UNDER THE OZMA SYSTEM, RIGHT?
OR, INAMINE-KUN...
COULD YOU BE TELLING ME...
THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE THE SYSTEM THAT THEY'RE CREATED IN, YOU'RE GOING TO DEVELOP A DISTASTE FOR THE WORKS THEMSELVES?
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, THEN FRANKLY I FIND THAT TO BE A BIT OF AN AMATEURISH MINDSET.

LIKE HAVING ONLY AN AUTHOR AND AN EDITOR PUT THEIR HEADS TOGETHER TO MAKE SOMETHING.
OLD-FASHIONED IDEAS MAY NO LONGER BE EFFECTIVE IN THIS DAY AND AGE.
…!
ガヤッ!
BUT CONTENT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE PRODUCED SO SIMPLY.
RECENTLY THERE'S BEEN A REAL FLOOD OF CONTENT INTO THE MARKET.
AND THE QUALITY DEMANDED OF MANGA HAS BEEN STEADILY INCREASING.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
THIS IS MORE EFFICIENT THAN THE MAGAZINE MODEL.
SEE, THE THING ABOUT OZMA IS...
WE DON'T BELIEVE FOR A SECOND HERE THAT THERE'S SOME ALL-KNOWING EDITOR THAT KNOWS BETTER THAN THE AUTHOR.
EVEN THOUGH EVERYTHING IS LEFT TO THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHOR'S TALENT...
THE AUTHOR LIVES OR DIES BY WHOEVER THEIR FIRST EDITOR HAPPENS TO BE.
EVEN IF THE EDITOR ASSISTS THEM, WHO CAN VOUCH FOR THE EFFICACY OF THE EDITOR IN THE FIRST PLACE?
IF A NOVICE WORKS UNDER A POOR MANAGING EDITOR, THEIR CAREER MAY END BEFORE IT EVER BEGINS. IT'S HAPPENED BEFORE.

THE IDEA OF A HIGH-POWERED EDITOR IS LITTLE MORE THAN A DELUSION INVENTED BY TALENTLESS AUTHORS FOR THEIR OWN CONVENIENCE.

I MEAN, IT'S PERFECTLY FINE THAT YOU BELIEVE YOUR OWN METHODS ARE CORRECT, BUT...
IT'S A LITTLE WEIRD THAT YOU WOULD ATTACK HOW OTHERS GO ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS.
WELL, UM... SAY WHAT YOU LIKE, BUT ISN'T THAT OVERSTATING IT A LITTLE?
...?
WHEN YOU WORK TOGETHER WITH AN EDITOR, YOU TRUST EACH OTHER.
AND YOU'RE EVEN THE ONE WHO MADE ME REALIZE THAT FACT, RUNE-SAN!
HOW CAN YOU JUST DISMISS THAT ENTIRE IDEA SO EASILY?

YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT PARTNERING WITH AN EDITOR, ARE YOU... HAH...
...!
WE SEE SO MANY AUTHORS HERE WHO HAVE BEEN BURNED BY THAT SYSTEM BEFORE.
HUH?
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE WORKS THAT YOU FIND SO ENJOYABLE.
THE KIDS WHO CREATED THEM DID SO AFTER ABANDONING THE EDITOR PARADIGM AND EMBRACING THE OZMA WAY.

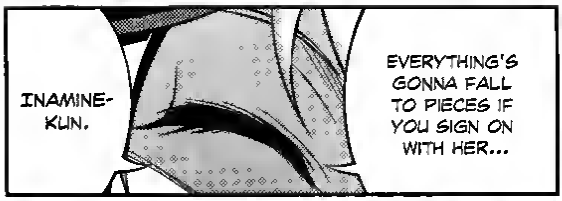
AND I'M ONE OF THEM, OF COURSE.
ドーン
WELL... EVEN SO...
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO JUST SLANDER ALL EDITORS LIKE THAT?
HOW ABOUT WE DO A LITTLE EXPERIMENT THEN?
WE DO WHAT?

WE'LL TAKE THE OZMA SYSTEM AND THE EDITOR SYSTEM...
AND DETERMINE WHICH OF THE TWO IS BETTER AT NURTURING A NEW TALENT.

ぼ～
WE'LL PICK A WORK FROM ONE OF OUR NOVICES...
AND RUN IT IN COMIC SPLASH.
WE'LL RUN IT AT THE SAME TIME AS YOUR SERIALIZATION.
AND THEN THIS WILL ALLOW US TO SEE WHICH OF THE TWO WORKS GATHERS THE MOST POPULARITY.

YOU MUST BE JOKING! WHAT WOULD THE POINT IN THAT BE?
BESIDES... YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M WORKING ON RIGHT NOW, BUT YOU WANT TO MAKE A COMPETITION?
OH, WE KNOW.
YOU...
I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT ACCORDING TO OUR DATA...
I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ONE OF OUR TRAINEES AT THE CURRENT STATE OF YOUR CAREER.
WE'RE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF ESTIMATING...
OR I SUPPOSE YOU COULD BACK DOWN IF YOU DON'T THINK YOU COULD WIN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
OH! NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SHE'S THE CHIEF EDITOR AT COMIC SPLASH, RIGHT?
!?
JUST WHAT KIND OF RESULTS ANY GIVEN AUTHOR CAN ACHIEVE.
ぴこっ

THE SELF-CENTERED INFAMOUS "NOVICE EATER" HERSELF...
SAWANOGUCHI HINATA!


INAMINE-KUN.
EVERYTHING'S GONNA FALL TO PIECES IF YOU SIGN ON WITH HER...

HOW ABOUT THIS? QUIT SPLASH AND COME WORK FOR US AT OZMA.
!!

FINE, THEN.
HM?

!!

I'LL DO IT!
I'LL TAKE YOU UP...
ON THE POPULARITY CONTEST!
はっ

ALRIGHT THEN!
I APPRECIATE ALL THAT YOU'VE TOLD ME TODAY!
AND I APOLOGIZE FOR ANY TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED!
ガタッ
GAAH!
I, UH... THOUGHT I'D BRING YOU TWO A LITTLE TEA, BUT...
I'M SORRY!
BUT I'M LEAVING!
I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR GUEST THERE.
YOU KNOW WHO HE IS? HE WROTE "THE NAME OF THE SEASONS."
INAMINE KOUTA.
WHAT?

HE'S THE VERY SAME PROMISING NOVICE THAT THE BOSS BROUGHT UP AT THE LAST PLANNING MEETING.
THE ONE HE WANTED US TO SPEAK WITH.
ガ!!
ガ!!
AH, FATE.
IT IS A MYSTERIOUS THING INDEED.
SO I SEE...

VERY WELL. I'LL BRING THE MATTER UP WITH COMIC SPLASH.
ビッ
It's been an eternity... Since I've paid a visit.
It brings back memories of the old days...

全ての漫画が「働うヒロイン」！
奇数月27日発売 ダンチガイ

ding dong
ding dong

HARSH WORDS!
AND I HADN'T SEEN YOU IN SO LONG, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN..
?
Was that a little too firm?
But if I'm any nicer
...!?
ガチャッ

WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DISCUSS RIGHT NOW. LEAVE.

SURELY YOU WOULDN'T TURN AWAY A GUEST?

……!!
今号も2話一挙掲載!! 第12話255ページへ!

We have a dogfight on our hands.

I think Im Dal Young is starting
to ramp up the central conflict of Koimoku here
This is looking really interesting!
Hope you enjoy it. See you next month.

こいもく
CIMOC
STORY OF CARTOONIST AND TRUE LOVE / PRESENTED BY ARTUM MEDIA
第12話
久々の再会…日向の思う所は？
こいもく
待望のコミックス2巻
好評発売中!!
2
原作 林達永
作画 李海源
by ARTUM MEDIA

THIS PLACE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT...
カチャ
AND NEITHER HAVE YOU, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN.
I HAVE TO SAY THAT I'M SURPRISED, OMURA-KUN.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE PAYING ME A VISIT!
I'VE BEEN OUT OF CONTACT FOR TOO LONG.
I REALLY THOUGHT I SHOULD HAVE STOPPED BY AND SAID HELLO SOME TIME, BUT YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES.

AFTER ALL, YOU WERE MY FIRST MANAGER. YOU SHOWED ME THE ROPES BACK WHEN I STARTED OUT.
HEARING YOU SAY THAT IS ENOUGH OF A THANK-YOU ON ITS OWN!
カチャ
AND YOU'RE A REGULAR CELEBRITY NOWADAYS!
EVERYTHING YOU TOUCH TURNS INTO A BIG HIT.
NO NO, YOU RE OVERESTIMATING ME.
SOMETIMES I WONDER IF YOU'RE GOING TO RUN THE PUBLISHERS OUT OF BUSINESS AND DO EVERYTHING YOURSELF!
I HAVE MY HANDS SO FULL WITH PRODUCT CREATION, I COULD HARDLY DO ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
NO MATTER WHERE I GO...
I HEAR ALL ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
HAHA...
THAT MAKES ME THINK.
BUT YOU KNOW...

IF WE WERE TO BRING A CERTAIN TALENTED EDITOR ON BOARD...
PERHAPS THAT COULD BE MORE THAN JUST A DREAM.
TRYING TO ENTICE ME, ARE WE?
OZMA IS A LITTLE INTIMIDATING! IT'S A PRETTY STRICT PLACE TO WORK, I HEAR!
はは
OH, NOTHING OF THE SORT. WE SIMPLY WORK VERY HARD.
JUST LIKE YOU TAUGHT ME.
PLEASE...
カチャ
LET US SPEAK FRANKLY.
I STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON YOU.
YOUR TEACHINGS HAVE BECOME MY BIBLE.

STILL THE SAME SWEET-TALKER AS EVER, I SEE.
I SUPPOSE "BIBLE" COULD HAVE A COUPLE DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS
BUT IN YOUR HEART, I IMAGINE THAT YOU'RE THINKING..
"I AM THE ONE WHO LEADS THIS INDUSTRY."
"THE ONLY THING AN EDITOR IS GOOD FOR IS TO MANAGE THE SCHEDULE AND DO THE PHOTOTYPESETTING."
IF YOU'RE HERE TO LURE ME AWAY, MAYBE YOU SHOULD LOOK ELSEWHERE.
WHAT WE HAD ENDED A LONG TIME AGO. I WOULDN'T SUIT OZMA.
...
IT WOUNDS ME TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN.
HAHA... PLEASE, YOU'RE KIDDING...
JUST A PET DOG THAT DOES WHATEVER IT'S TOLD?
THAT'S WHAT YOU'D EXPECT OUT OF ME, TOO, RIGHT?
オホホ

YOU, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, WOULD BE BEST SUITED TO WORKING WITH US.
BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T CHANGE MY MIND.
ふう
I would throw myself away...
OR RATHER, OUTSIDE OF OZMA...
THERE IS NO OTHER PLACE WHERE YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO DISPLAY YOUR UNIQUE TALENTS.
IN TRUTH, YOU HAVE CONSIDERED THIS YOURSELF, HAVE YOU NOT?
THERE'S CERTAINLY BEEN A TIME OR TWO THAT I'VE THOUGHT THAT.
カチャ

YOUR TALENTS ARE SO PRODIGIOUS...
THAT I'D CAUGHT MYSELF CONSIDERING THAT NOTION, OMURA-KUN.
BUT NO LONGER.
.....?
WHAT I AM LOOKING FOR NOW...
I CANNOT FIND IN OZMA.

WELL THEN... WHAT IS IT THAT YOU SEARCH FOR?
YOU WERE CHASED OUT OF A MAJOR MAGAZINE, AND THEN YOU WANDERED FROM PUBLISHER TO PUBLISHER.
NOW YOU'RE CHIEF EDITOR AT SOME BIT PLAYER IN THE MARKET.
LOOKING AT IT FROM THE OUTSIDE, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU'LL EVER FIND WHAT YOU SEEK.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. THERE'S ALWAYS A LOT OF RAW TALENT OUT THERE, UNPOLISHED THOUGH IT MAY BE.
I WANT TO HELP THEM GROW INTO PROFESSIONALS.
THE KIDS TODAY ARE A LOT LIKE YOU WERE WHEN YOU STARTED OUT, OMURA-KUN.
AND I'D LIKE THEM TO BE ABLE TO COMPETE WITH YOU, SO THEY CAN REINVIGORATE THE INDUSTRY IN THE PROCESS.

AND I BELIEVE THAT SOME DAY, THESE NEW KIDS...
WILL EVEN BE ABLE TO SURPASS YOUR OZMA OPERATION.
DO YOU MEAN INAMINE KOUTA?
びくっ
…!
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T JOIN YOU.
くす
HEH...
DO YOU BELIEVE THAT OF HIM?
…
IS HE THE RAW TALENT YOU SPEAK OF?

I'D ALSO FELT SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT HIM.
HE STILL LACKS EXPERIENCE, BUT HE CARRIES SOMETHING WITHIN HIM UNIQUELY HIS OWN.
HE MAY WELL BE.
AT ANY RATE, I'D THOUGHT TO EXTEND AN INVITATION TO HIM MYSELF BEFORE I WAS AWARE HE'D CAUGHT YOUR EYE.
OH, BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO PRICKLE LIKE THAT.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LURING AWAY TALENT FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.
STILL... WHAT IS ONE TO DO?

I MUST SAY, I WONDER WHETHER HE'LL BE ABLE TO TRULY SHINE AT SPLASH.
AND I'M A TAD SKEPTICAL THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO CREATE A WORK THAT WOULD SURPASS WHAT WE PRODUCE.
THAT STILL REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DIFFERENT MAGAZINES HERE. I DON'T THINK HE SHOULD ONLY AIM AT YOU.
THAT WON'T WORK, YOU KNOW.
YOU CAN'T COMPETE WITH US IN SUCH A LACKADAISICAL MANNER.
WITH TIME, HE'LL BE ABLE TO CREATE SOMETHING VERY GOOD.
RATHER AN OPTIMISTIC VIEWPOINT.
ARE YOU GOING TO SIT AND WAIT FOR HIM SIMPLY BECAUSE THE POTENTIAL EXISTS?
…!?

WITH A FAVORABLE READER RESPONSE, HE MAY BE ABLE TO PRODUCE PERHAPS TWO OR THREE VOLUMES. BUT HIS OUTPUT WILL BE BURIED BY THAT OF HIS COMPETITORS...
AND HE WILL BE CAST ASIDE BEFORE HIS TALENT CAN BLOOM.
BUT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN IF HE WERE REARED UNDER OUR SYSTEM. OUR TRAINING, FOCUSED AS IT IS ON REAL-WORLD ACHIEVEMENT, WOULD ENABLE HIM TO PRODUCE HIT PRODUCTS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.
YOU DON'T EXPECT GRAND SUCCESS OF HIM RIGHT OFF THE BAT?
HOW CAN YOU EVEN SAY THAT?
YOU, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, KNOW THAT THIS WORLD IS ALL ABOUT RESULTS.
ガチャ
DEPENDING ON THE PERSON, THEY MAY NEED A LITTLE TIME TO MATURE.
YOU STILL DON'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THAT, OMURA-KUN.
!!
IT WAS YOU WHO TAUGHT ME THAT IN THE FIRST PLACE, AFTER ALL.

SUPPOSE ONE OF OZMA'S NEW RECRUITS WERE TO RUN SOMETHING IN THE SAME MAGAZINE AS HIM.
OUR RECRUIT WOULD OUTSHINE HIM IMMEDIATELY, LEAVING HIM NO CHANCE TO EVER ADVANCE TO SYNDICATION.
NOVICES AREN'T GIVEN MUCH SPACE IN A MAGAZINE.
SO WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO INAMINE-KUN WHEN OUR WELL-TRAINED NOVICES START CROWDING OUT HIS WORKS?
WHY EVEN BOTHER WITH THIS HYPOTHETICAL?
YOU'VE GOT A BAD HABIT OF LOOKING AT EVERYTHING IN TERMS OF BLACK-AND-WHITE, OMURA-KUN!
EVADING THE ISSUE AGAIN, I SEE...
...!?
IT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS DO. YOU DODGE THE QUESTION WHEN SOMETHING SERIOUS COMES UP.
YOUR CURRENT STATION IN LIFE IS THE RESULT OF YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM YOUR JOB AND THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU, IS IT NOT?

I WOULD NOT. ALLOW ME TO FINISH.
WHAT YOU DO IS COWER AND CLING TO YOUR BELIEFS, SHUTTING YOURSELF OFF FROM THE WORLD.
PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO LEAVE IT AT THAT...
OMURA-KUN?
YOU ABHOR ACKNOWLEDGING THEM SO MUCH THAT IT'S RUINED THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
THOUGH YOU HAVE WITNESSED MY ACHIEVEMENTS...
YOU'RE AFRAID THAT BY WORKING UNDER ONE OF YOUR PROTEGES, YOU WILL BECOME TAINTED BY MY IDEAS!
AM I MISTAKEN, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN?!
LISTEN...

I HATE TO RUN AWAY AND I CANNOT STAND LOSING. THAT'S THE KIND OF PERSON I AM.
AND ONE THING THAT HASN'T CHANGED IN ALL THIS TIME IS THAT WHEN I WANT SOMETHING, I MUST MAKE IT MINE.
AND EVEN IF I'M UP AGAINST YOU... WELL, ALLOW ME TO MAKE A PROPOSAL.
……!?
It's a great plan. There's talk of it becoming a mixed-media property right out of the gate.
They were originally going to run it in another magazine, but I was able to refer them to Heat.

OZMA...
It's an OZMA product. Even if it's one of their novices doing it, I've got big expectations of it.
It's been forced into Comic Heat!
Without even so much as an editor Meeting...
ガチャ
SO, UM... CHIEF...
UH-HUH. YEAH.
OKAY. BYE.
SO I JUST HEARD FROM OZMA...
...?
Just how low will they sink to make fools out of us?!

YOU KNOW THAT NOVICE THAT THEIR DIRECTOR WANTED US TO RUN? APPARENTLY THEY WANT TO CANCEL.
WHAT?!
You finished this entire storyboard in two days?!

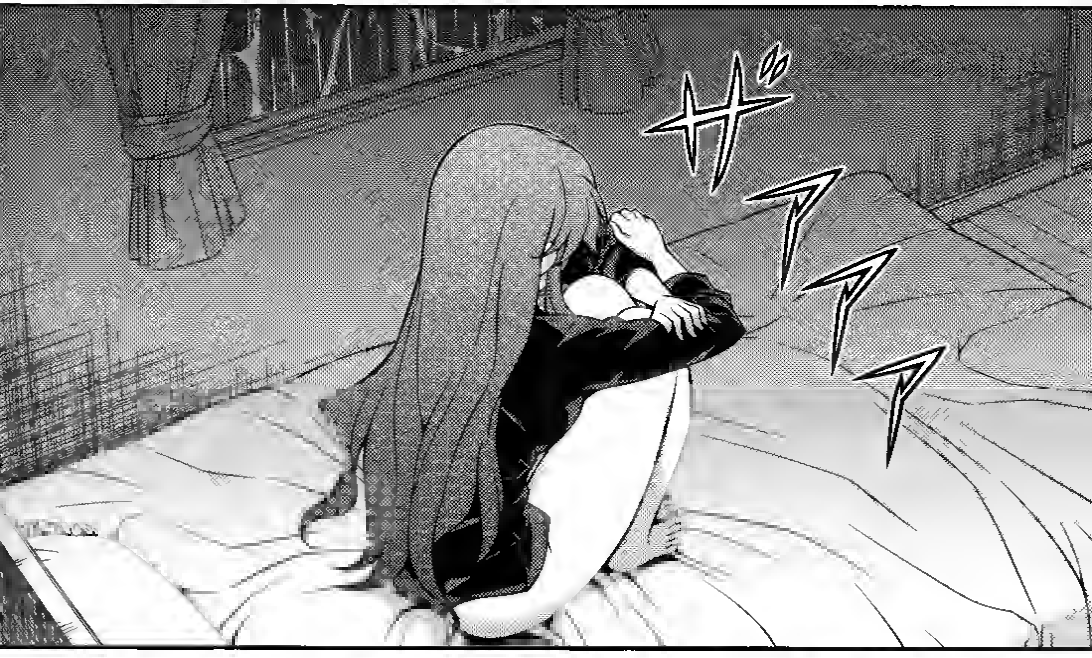
Yeah. You said it would be good to keep a storyboard or two stocked up for the future, Sawanoguchi-san.
Well, I did, but...
This is just about a volume's worth right here!
Page count alone doesn't make something good, Omura-kun.
...!
むっ
You're being awfully cross! You haven't even read any of it yet!
You've got a bit of a short temper!
Alright, alright.

So... is it good?
ペラ
ペラ
ペラ
I can't believe you made this in two days...
And look how well it's turned out...
Woohoo!
You really hit this one out of the park, Omura-kun.
I knew you'd understand me, Sawanoguchi-san!

Thank you.
It's nothing special, but I made you a little late-night snack.
もぐ
もぐ
Um... Omura-kun? I'm glad you're trying so hard, but are you getting enough sleep?
Don't worry. I'm getting some sleep.
How much?
About two hours.
サッ
スッ
What about the night before that?
What? Only two hours?!
Hmm... Now that I think about it, I may not have slept at all that night.

I'm not gonna let this chance pass me by!
Just a second, Omura-kun!
I'm fine.
You're really overdoing this! What if it affects your health?
And I'm the first author you've ever managed, right?
I have to make my debut the best it can be for your sake too, Sawanoguchi-san!
You believed in me, even though I was a nobody.
And now I'll repay you for your kindness!

How about this?
We will choose one of our novices, and run their serialization alongside Inamine-kun's in your magazine.
They'll be in the same magazine, with the same genre, from authors with the same level of experience.
It should be a perfect equivalent of Inamine-kun. You won't even need to pay the manuscript fee.
They will both be three-chapter serializations.
The winner will be determined by who places higher in the reader surveys.
If we lose, you may use OZMA to benefit your magazine in whatever way you wish.
However... Should Inamine-kun lose...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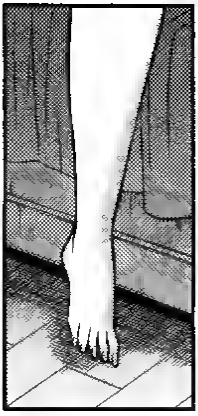
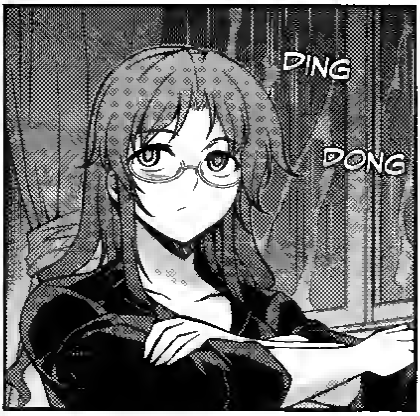
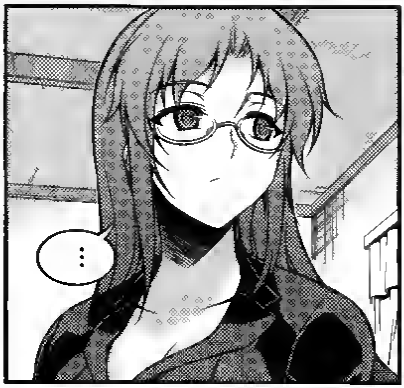



DING
DONG

YOUR TEA.
OH! THANK YOU...
UM— SAWANOGUCHI-SAN
I...
I CAN'T EXPRESS HOW SORRY I AM!
I WAS WRONG ABOUT EVERYTHING!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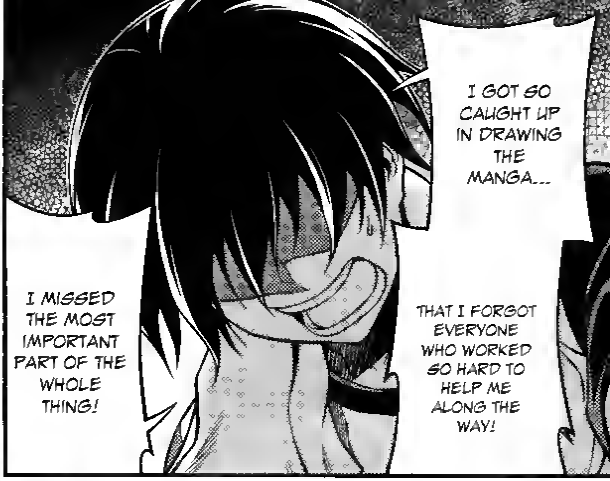

I GOT SO CAUGHT UP IN DRAWING THE MANGA...
THAT I FORGOT EVERYONE WHO WORKED SO HARD TO HELP ME ALONG THE WAY!
I MISSED THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE WHOLE THING!

AFTER YOU MET OZMA?
HUH?!
DID YOU REALIZE THAT...

MAYBE...
OMURA-KUN WAS RIGHT.
BUT... HOW DID YOU KNOW...

IN THE PAST, I WAS SO FOCUSED ON RESULTS THAT I DICTATED WHAT MY NOVICES WOULD PRODUCE, DESPITE THEIR OBJECTIONS.
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, MANY OF THEM BURNED OUT, UNABLE TO KEEP UP WITH IT ANYMORE.
I WASN'T EVER ABLE TO GET IT THROUGH TO YOU...
BUT THEY FINALLY GOT YOU TO UNDERSTAND.
UM... I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW...
WHEN I LOOK BACK ON THOSE TIMES NOW...
I MAY HAVE SIMPLY TAKEN THEIR FUTURES AWAY WITH MY OWN HANDS.
SOME DAY THAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU AS WELL.
SO... YOU SHOULD GO AND FOLLOW YOUR OWN HEART.

REALLY, FOR YOU, INAMINE-KUN...
THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THAT, RIGHT?
SAWANOGUCHI-SAN...

N-NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
HEAR ME OUT! PLEASE!
I'VE BEEN ACTING LIKE A SPOILED CHILD!
I MEAN, I FIGURED YOU'D UNDERSTAND WHERE I WAS COMING FROM...
SO WHEN I SAID THAT THIS WASN'T WHAT I WANTED TO MAKE, IT WAS JUST ME RUNNING MY MOUTH OFF!
...
I KNOW THAT YOU PLACE A LOT OF IMPORTANCE ON RESULTS...
AND WHEN I BECAME AN AUTHOR I KNEW IT WOULDN'T BE AN EASY THING TO DO.
BUT I SHOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED FOR ALL OF THAT!
I KNOW THAT WHAT YOU REALLY WORK SO HARD FOR...

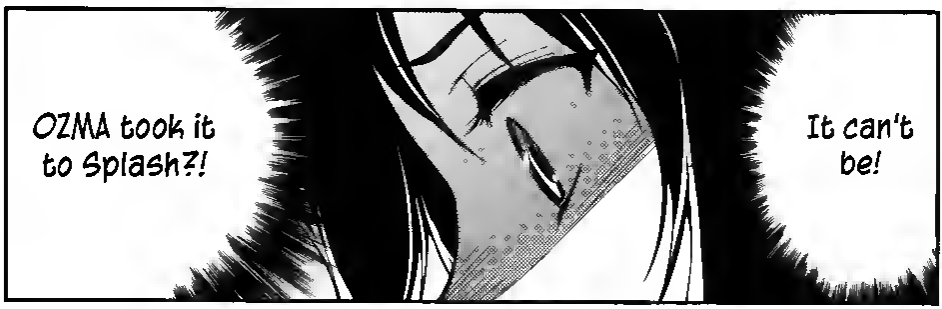
...IS THE SUCCESS OF THE AUTHOR!
YOU GIVE EVERYTHING YOU HAVE FOR THE AUTHOR, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE! AND... AND I STILL DIDN'T...

It's all for my future!
And for the readers who will trust in my work!
Believe me, I know.
No matter how strict your leadership might seem...
CAN I PUT MY FAITH IN YOU?
...!?

IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, INAMINE-KUN...
CAN I PUT MY FAITH IN YOU ONE MORE TIME?
Sawanoguchi-san...

ONE WEEK LATER
CHIEF!
DID YOU SEE THIS MONTH'S SPLASH?!
IT'S OZMA!
YOU KNOW THE THING THEY PULLED THE OTHER DAY? THEY TRICKED US!
はぁ…はぁ
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ペラペラ
ドン!!
ONLY IN COMIC SPLASH:
TWO BRAND-NEW ROMANCE SERIES
BEGIN!
"LOST MEMORIES OF LOVE"
"MIDSUMMER DREAMS"
INAMINE KOUTA
OZMA
BIG1


OZMA took it to Splash?!
It can't be!

YO SENSEI, DID YOU SEE THIS?
THEY ANNOUNCED THAT SERIALIZATION OF YOURS.
ガタガタ

WHY'S IT STARTING AT THE SAME TIME AS AN OZMA SERIES, OF ALL THINGS?
AND WHY'S OZMA IN SPLASH IN THE FIRST PLACE?
IT'S EVEN THE SAME GENRE... WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH ALL THIS?
ぶるぶる

Ahh, scary stuff!
ガーン
……!!
OOH, I SEE. THE CHIEF EDITOR WANTS TO PUSH YOU OUT, DOESN'T SHE?
Y'KNOW, AFTER WHAT YOU PULLED THE OTHER DAY...
ガラガラッ
INAMINE-KUN!
HOW'S THE MANUSCRIPT COMING ALONG?
SAWANO-GUCHI-SAN!
AND IT'S RUNNING AGAINST OZMA?
THIS IS OZMA HERE! THAT OZMA!
I KNOW I CAUSED YOU LOTS OF PROBLEMS AND I KNOW I MADE YOU MAD... BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!
I DON'T EVEN HAVE CHAPTER 1'S MANUSCRIPT READY, AND IT'S ALREADY BEING PROMOTED?
MY MANGA IS GONNA GET BURIED!
I KNOW I SAID I WOULD TRY MY HARDEST, BUT...
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WOULD BELIEVE IN ME? YOU'RE JUST SETTING ME UP TO...

I DO BELIEVE IN YOU.
HUH?
INAMINE-KUN...
ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU AGREED TO AT OZMA'S STUDIO?
YOU SAID YOU WOULD COMPETE WITH OZMA...
WITH YOUR WORK AGAINST THEIRS.

You must be the biggest moron on the planet!
げげっ
HOW... HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
WAIT... WAS THAT WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT BEFORE?!
ほっ
……!
I GUESS I DID SAY THAT, BUT... IT WAS IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT!
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD TURN INTO A COMPETITION THIS QUICKLY!
IT WAS JUST THE RAMBLINGS OF A NOVICE! OZMA REALLY DECIDED TO TAKE ME UP ON IT?!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD WIN THIS! MY STUFF CAN'T COMPETE WITH OZMA!

INAMINE-KUN.
……!
IN MY ROLE AS THE CHIEF EDITOR, I WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO RUN SOMETHING OF THEIRS.
IRRESPECTIVE OF MY PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU, OZMA IS A VERY POPULAR AUTHOR, RIGHT?
YOU'D GAIN A LOT MORE READERS AS THEY NOTICE YOURS NEXT TO OZMA'S.
SINCE THEY'RE BOTH ROMANCE STORIES, IT WOULD DRAW MORE ATTENTION TO YOUR SERIES.
AND BESIDES, DON'T YOU THINK THAT A JOINT SERIALIZATION WITH OZMA WOULD BE A BIG CHANCE FOR YOU?
WELL... I GUESS THAT'S TRUE...
YOU TOLD ME...
THAT I COULD PUT MY FAITH IN YOU AGAIN.
…
WHAT IS IT? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR NERVE?
BUT...
YOU MADE A PROMISE TO ME.
はっ

?
SO I TOOK YOU AT YOUR WORD AND SET THIS UP.
AND ANYWAY, JUDGING BY YOUR MANUSCRIPT...
I THINK YOU'RE ON JUST THE RIGHT TRACK!
AS LONG AS YOU CAN KEEP UP THIS LEVEL OF QUALITY, OF COURSE.

OH YES. LET ME THINK...
RIGHT NOW YOU'LL NEED TO GET THE SECOND CHAPTER READY. I'D SAY BY THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK.
SAWANOGUCHI-SAN... NOW THAT IT'S BEEN ANNOUNCED, THERE'S PROBABLY NO CHANGING THE SCHEDULE AT THIS POINT, RIGHT?
WHEN IS THE ABSOLUTE DEADLINE?
WHAT?
I'LL DO IT OVER AGAIN.
AND IF I'M GONNA WORK THEM IN, I NEED TO START OVER FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!
I'VE HAD SO MANY IDEAS FLOATING AROUND IN MY HEAD!
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY YOU'LL MAKE THE DEADLINE IF YOU DO THAT!
WHAT ARE YOU, NUTS?!
LET ME START OVER FROM THE FIRST CHAPTER, PLEASE!
What?
THE DIALOG, THE STORY, EVERYTHING!
SAKOMIZU-SAN!

I NEED YOUR HELP!
THIS IS GONNA BE COMPLETELY IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU BY MY SIDE!
ドキッ
WELL, UH... I GUESS IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
I WON'T BE SO CRUEL AS TO REFUSE...
I'M BEGGING YOU, SAWANOGUCHI-SAN!
LET ME START THE WHOLE THING OVER!

VERY WELL!
YOU HAVE MY TRUST, SO I'LL BET ON YOU!
LIKE... WHAT?
UNTIL THE FIRST MANUSCRIPT IS READY TO GO TO PRINT...
BUT IT'S NOT A GOOD PRACTICE FOR AN EDITOR TO LEAVE EVERY LAST DETAIL TO THE AUTHOR, SO I'D LIKE YOU TO MAKE ONE GUARANTEE.

I WANT YOU TO STAY IN A BOARDING HOUSE.
ドーン

WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WASN'T IT RATHER RUDE OF US...
TO PULL THIS NEW PROJECT FROM HEAT AND GAVE IT TO SPLASH?
YOU THINK? IT'S A PUBLISHER! THEY DO THAT KIND OF STUFF ALL THE TIME!
AS AUTHORS, WE CAN MAKE A SELFISH REQUEST EVERY NOW AND THEN!
YOU STILL NEED TO DO SOME GROWING UP. THIS MIGHT HARM OUR COMPANY'S IMAGE.
スッ
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM. THE PROJECT WAS ONLY IN THE PLANNING STAGE.

IT'S NOT SO RARE FOR A COMPANY TO CHANGE ITS PLAN BEFORE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT IS COMPLETED.
THAT'S JUST BUSINESS.
NOW THEN. HOW IS THE "LOST MEMORIES OF LOVE" PROJECT COMING ALONG?
OH!
The boss has always made integrity his top priority.
Does he really want that novice so badly?
Or perhaps...
Is he aiming for something entirely different?
IT'S FINISHED UP TO THE THIRD CHAPTER.
SHALL I BRING IT TO YOU?
NO, THAT'S FINE.

I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK MYSELF.
PRODUCTION
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スス
AIKAWA! THE BOSS IS HERE TO SEE YOU!
…?

月刊ヴァルキリー 2012年3月27日発売予定
5月号に続く!!